

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6 and 9-18 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of August 22, 2005, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14, 15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kato* (JP 10-040395) in view of *Matsugu et al.* (U.S. 6,453,069).
- B.) Rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kato* in view of *Matsugu* and further in view of *Ito et al.* (U.S. 5,966,141).
- C.) Objected to claim 16.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and address the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14, 15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kato* (JP 10-040395) in view of *Matsugu et al.* (U.S. 6,453,069):

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have each been amended to include the subject matter of claims 15 and 16. As acknowledged by the Examiner *Kato* in view of *Matsugu* fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 16. Therefore, claims 1, 6, and 11, each as amended, are allowable over *Kato* in view of *Matsugu*.

Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled.

Claims 4-5, 9-10, 14, 17 and 18 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 or 6 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 6 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- B.) Rejection of claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kato* in view of *Matsugu* and further in view of *Ito et al.*:

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have each been amended to include the subject matter of claims 15 and 16. As acknowledged by the Examiner *Kato* in view of *Matsugu* and further in view of *Ito* fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 16. Therefore, claims 1 and 6, each as amended, is allowable over *Kato* in view of *Matsugu* and further in view of *Ito*.

Claims 12 and 13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 or 6 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 6 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be

withdrawn.

C. Objection to claim 16:

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 16.

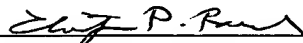
Claim 16 has been canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit the objection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1, 4-6 and 9-14, and 17-18 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch
SONNENSCHN, NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Telephone 312/876-2606
Customer #26263
Attorneys for Applicant(s)